

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 OFA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9213

UNCLAS MEXICO 6858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, M

SUBJ: REPORT OF WHALING STATION CONSTRUCTION

REF: STATE 180069

PASS TO NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA, COMMERCE

1. FISH ATT SPOKE WITH PEDRO MERCADO, SUBDIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FISHERY REGIONS CONCERNING SUBJECT RUMOR. MERCADO'S OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING PERMITS FOR ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING ENTERPRISES. MERCADO SAID THAT THE RUMOR IS ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. MEXICAN LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF MARINE MAMMALS AND THERE IS NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THIS. FURTHERMORE HE SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF RIO NEGRO.

2. PEDRO MERCADO SAID THERE IS A PLACE CALLED GUERRERO NEGRO AT SCAMMON'S LAGOON WHERE THERE IS A JOINT MEXICAN-JAPANESE (MITSUBISHI) OPERATION FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SALT BUT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY SUGGESTION OF A WHALING OPERATION.

3. MERCADO MENTIONED THAT A JAPANESE GENTLEMAN HAD APPROACHED THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT A FEW MONTHS AGO WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A WHALING OPERATION FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA AND HAD OFFERED TO INVEST MILLIONS IF THE NECESSARY PERMITS COULD BE OBTAINED. HE SAID THAT
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THEY HAD SENT HIM PACKING WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO NEVER

COME BACK. HE THOUGHT THAT POSSIBLY THIS JAPANESE
COULD HAVE STARTED THIS RUMOR OUT OF VINDICATIVENESS.
SAN DIEGO TRIBUNE OF APRIL 19, 1975 CARRIED A STORY
ABOUT THIS PREVIOUS PROPOSAL AND IT WAS INVESTIGATED
BY OFFICIALS OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION OF THE NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WHO CONFIRMED THAT MEXICO
WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH AN OPERATION.
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